

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014746 TOSEC 010086

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 1085 ACTIONSECSTATE JAN 19

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1085

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, IS, VT

SUBJECT: DAYAN'S VISIT TO VATICAN

1. DURING LUNCHEON JANUARY 17, AMBASSADOR GARDNER AND SARROS
HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER
CASAROLI ABOUT FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S VISIT TO THE VATICAN.

2. CASAROLI, WHO HAD SEEN DAYAN PRIVATELY ON JANUARY 1 FOR
TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION AND ALSO PARTICIPATED IN DAYAN'S MEETING
WITH THE POPE, STATED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL
REVIEW OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, THE
FUTURE OF JERUSALEM AND THE HOLY PLACES WERE DISCUSSED AT
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LENGTH.

3. CASAROLI CONFIDED TO US THAT DAYAN HAD LEFT HIM WITH TWO
"IMPRESSIONS:

--FIRST, THAT HIS METHOD APPEARS MORE SUITABLE TO
A MILITARY MAN THAN A DIPLOMAT, ILLUSTRATING

IT WITH DAYAN'S POSITION ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE:

"WE HAVE INVITED PALESTINIANS FROM THE WEST
BANK AND GAZA TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS; IF
THEY DO NOT, SO BE IT."

--SECOND, THAT DAYN, AND PERHAPS THE GOI,
HAVE NOT APPRECIATED FULLY HOW UNIQUE AND
RARE IS THE OPPORTUNITY INITIATED BY THE
SADAT VISIT TO JERUSALEM, OBSERVING THAT
IF THE GOI DOES NOT GRASP THIS OPPORTUNITY
AND SADAT SOMEHOW FALLS, EVERYONE WILL HAVE
TO WAIT A VERY LONG TIME FOR ANOTHER SUCH
OPPORTUNITY.

4. WITH RESPECT TO JERSUALEM AND THE HOLY PLACES, THERE
WAS NOT MEETING OF MINDS, ALTHOUGH DAYAN GAVE IMPRESSION THAT
HOLY SEE POSITION WAS NOT AS "HARD" AS HE EXPECTED. VATICAN,
HE SAID, HAD TURNED DOWN ANOTHER OFFER FOR A BILATERAL ACCORD,
NOTING THAT THERE COULD NOT BE AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON A
MATTER OVER WHICH GOI AS AN OCCUPYING POWER HAS NO LEGAL
"RIGHT". (SAUDI ARABIA, CASAROLI ADDED PARENTHETICALLY,
WANTS VATICAN TO ISSUE STATEMENT FOR RETURN OF OLD JERUSLAME
TO ARABS, BUT VATICAN HAS DECLINED TO ISSUE SUCH A
STATEMENT.) VATICAN EXPLAINED ITS PROPOSAL FOR "SPECIAL
STATUTO" FOR JERUSLAEM AND HOLY PLACES COVERED BY INTERNATIONAL
GUARANTEES, SEEING THE SPECIAL STATUE AS AN INSTRUMENT
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FOR "CONDOMINIUM" OVER, AND AS LIMITING SOVEREIGNTY OF
OVERALL CONTROLLING POWER OF JERUSALEM AND THE HOLY PALCES.
OLD JERUSALEM, IN VATICAN'S VIEW, IS "A HOLY PLACE" IN ITSELF.
GARDNER. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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